

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced today that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has awarded \$425,851 to Oneida County for track improvements, improved disability access, and energy efficiency upgrades at Union Station in Utica, NY.

“This grant provides critical funding to upgrade our local rail infrastructure, improve energy efficiency, and make sure all members of our community have access to the train station,” **said Arcuri, a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee**

. “With today’s rising fuel costs, investments in passenger rail can help save families and businesses real money. This funding goes one step further, providing for new energy efficient windows which will save local taxpayers money. I am pleased to announce this grant, secured by my predecessor, Congressman Boehlert, and I will continue to work with Oneida County and the City of Utica to ensure that we have the best possible transportation infrastructure to foster economic growth and job creation.”

“We are grateful to be receiving these funds from the DOT which will improve safety and provide a much more cost-effective means of routing traffic within the yard,” **said Al Heywood, President of the Adirondack Scenic Railroad**

. “These improvements will also offer additional storage space for cars, which will be critical to expanding the railroad to offer greater service. The Congressman’s continuing support is most gratifying and helpful to us as we continue to restore rail service from Utica through the Adirondacks to Lake Placid.”

This grant provides funds to support the construction of a “runaround” track at Union Station. The runaround track will enable the Adirondack Railway to easily move passenger cars and locomotives without needing to use the CSX switching tracks and ensure that their movements will not be blocked.

The grant also includes funds to install handicap lifts, including wheelchair lifts, in intermodal centers which will allow for improved access in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines.

Funding is also available to support the replacement of 135 windows on the second and third floors of Union Station for improved energy savings. The current windows were installed in the

early eighties, and do not comply with current energy standards.

###